

In the Drawings

A replacement sheet having Figures 5 and 6 thereon is submitted herewith. Figure 6 has been amended to show the correct cross-hatching. Figure 5 has been amended to add new reference numbers that correspond to the portion of the specification being amended in this amendment. Specifically, amended Figure 5 includes the following new reference numbers:

- 130A: front-most serrated tooth-like profile
- 130B: rear serrated tooth-like profiles
- 134: ascending flanks of front-most and rear serrated tooth-like profiles
- 132A: descending flanks of rear serrated tooth-like profile
- 132B: descending flank of front-most serrated tooth-like profile

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reasons stated in the Office Action. In response, Applicants have submitted a Replacement Sheet that corrects the cross-hatching in Figure 6 and which amends Figure 5 to incorporate additional reference numbers that correspond to the portions of the specification on pages 12 and 12 that are being amended in this amendment.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure for the reasons stated in the Office Action. In response, Applicants have submitted an amended abstract.

The Examiner has also made the following objections and rejections:

- 1) Claims 21-23 and 25-26 are objected to because of the informalities stated in the office action;
- 2) Claims 21-23 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Yoshiharu et al. JP 10220654 ("Yoshiharu");
- 3) Claims 21-23 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Skinner U.S. Patent No. 4,222,594 ("Skinner");

Applicant has cancelled all pending claims 21-23 and 25-26 thereby rendering moot any rejections directed to these claims.

Applicant is presenting in this amendment new claims 42-44 that clarify the claimed invention and patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the devices disclosed in the cited references.

Specifically, new claim 42 that recites:

said connecting region having a plurality of serrated tooth-like profiles comprising a front serrated tooth-like profile that extends about said opening of said connection region and at least one rear serrated tooth-like profile that is located behind said front serrated tooth-like profile, each of said serrated tooth-like profiles having an ascending flank that ascends at a relatively small angle so that no significant resistance occurs when inserting said connecting region into a socket of a connection section; and

each of said plurality of serrated tooth-like profiles having a rear side that defines a descending flank that is transverse to said longitudinally extending axis, said front serrated tooth-like profile having a descending flank that is very steep and steeper than said descending flank of said at least one rear serrated tooth-like profile, said very steep descending flank of said front serrated tooth-like profile providing significant resistance when the connecting region is pulled or wrenched out of a socket of a connecting section.

Applicant has amended pages 12 and 13 of the instant specification to add additional reference numbers that correspond to the front and rear serrated tooth-like profiles, and the ascending and descending flanks of the front and rear tooth-like profiles that are recited in new claims 42-44. Support for new claims 42-44 and for the amendment to the specification is found in originally filed claims 21-27, originally filed Figure 5, and in the originally filed specification at the following locations: page 6, fourth paragraph, page 12, last paragraph, and page 13, lines 1-5.

The references cited by the Examiner do not disclose a corrugated pipe having the particular structure recited in claim 42.

Yoshiharu relates to a water supply apparatus that has a hose connecting part (2). This hose connecting part (2) appears to have tooth-like profile. Each of

these tooth-like profiles is referred to by reference number (10). Each tooth-like profile (10) has an identical structure and identical ascending and descending flanks. Thus, all descending flanks of tooth-like profiles 10 are identical. (see Figures 1, 2 and 4 of Yoshiharu). Yoshiharu does not have a front tooth-like profile that has a very steep descending flank that is steeper than the descending flanks of the rear serrated tooth-like profiles as recited in claim 42. Thus, Applicant submits that Yoshiharu does not anticipate new claim 42.

Skinner discloses swivel couplings. Figures 4 and 5 of Skinner shows ribs 22 and 24 and walls 32. Ribs 22 and 24 are identical in structure. Each rib 22 and 24 has an identical wall 32. The Skinner apparatus does not have a front serrated tooth-like profile that has a very steep descending flank that is steeper than the descending flanks of the rear serrated tooth-like profiles as recited in claim 42. Applicant submits that Skinner does not anticipate claim 42.

Applicants submit that since it has been shown that claim 42 is now patentably distinguished from the cited references, then dependent claims 43 and 44 patentable as well.

Thus, Applicant submits that the claims of the instant application are patentable over the cited references of record and should be allowable.

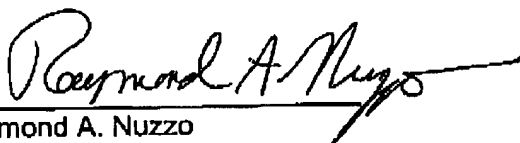
A Petition for Extension of Time for two (2) months and the corresponding fee are submitted herewith.

Also submitted herewith is the fee for this RCE.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at 203-467-7895 for a telephone conference if the Examiner believes there are outstanding issues regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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